

## Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 /028 W  
-----110306Z 128976 /63

R 101801Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 531  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 2424

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: SHUM, IR  
SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAN

REFERENCE: (A) TEHRAN 1231 AND PREVIOUS;  
(B) STATE 16488

SUMMARY: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL EXPLAINED TO US THAT THE  
IRANIAN GOVERNMENT GOT HOLD OF AN AI INTERNAL MEMORANDUM  
IN ADDITION TO A RECENT PUBLISHED REPORT ON VIOLATIONS  
OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN. AI CONTENDS THAT THE PROPOSED  
AI CONFERENCE IN THE NETHERLANDS IS A NORMAL ACTION FOR  
AI, AND THAT THE PUBLICITY DIRECTED AGAINST IRAN IN THIS  
CASE IS ONLY PART OF THE AI WORLD-WIDE PROGRAM THE FCO  
PRIVATELY HOLDS THE VIEW THAT THE AI REPORT IS EXAG-  
GERATED. END SUMMARY

1. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ANALYST RESPONSIBLE FOR IRAN,  
MRS. ANNE BURLEY, HAS GIVEN US BACKGROUND ON CURRENT DIS-  
PUTE WITH IRAN, AS FOLLOWS: IN NOVEMBER 1976 AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL (AI) PUBLISHED ONE OF ITS PERIODIC REPORTS  
DEVOTED TO A SINGLE COUNTRY, IN THIS CASE IRAN ALLEGING  
TORTURE AND OTHER VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WHENEVER  
AI PUTS OUT SUCH A REPORT, IT IS NORMAL FOR ITS INTERNA-  
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TIONAL SECRETARIAT IN LONDON PRIOR TO PUBLICATIONS TO  
SEND TO ALL BRANCHES OF AI THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AN  
"INTERNAL MEMORANDUM" SUGGESTING WAYS OF PUBLICIZING  
THAT PARTICULAR REPORT. SUCH MEMORANDA ARE NOT SECRET,  
ALTHOUGH NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE AI BRANCHES. IT  
WAS A COPY OF THE AI INTERNAL MEMORANDUM ON THE REPORT  
ON IRAN WHICH THE IRANIANS GOT HOLD OF. MRS. BURLEY

SAID IRAN WAS NOT UNIQUELY SINGLED OUT FOR AN AI CAMPAIGN, SINCE MANY CAMPAIGNS ARE MOUNTED AND TARGET COUNTRIES ARE CHOSEN ON A BASIS OF "POLITICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE"; HOWEVER, THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT DECIDED THAT AI HAD SHOWN A PARTICULAR BIAS AGAINST IT.

2. MEANWHILE, CONTINUED MRS. BURLEY, THE NETHERLANDS BRANCH OF AI HAD RESPONDED TO THE AI MEMORANDUM WITH MORE ZEAL THAN ANY OTHER BRANCH, AND ACCORDINGLY IS PLANNING TO HOLD THE TWO-DAY CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 18 AND 19. THE FIRST DAY WILL BE A CLOSED AI WORKSHOP, AND THE SECOND DAY WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR WILL BE INVITED.

3. IN LONDON THE IRANIAN EMBASSY ON JANUARY 28 DISTRIBUTED ON A MASS SCALE A CIRCULAR LETTER, OF WHICH WE RECEIVED A COPY. THIS CIRCULAR QUOTED FROM THE AI INTERNAL MEMBERANDUM, POINTED OUT THAT IRAN HAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM WITH TERRORISM, AND DENOUNCED THE AI CAMPAIGN. THE AI SECRETARIAT ON FEBRUARY 2 REPLIED WITH A NEWS RELEASE OF ITS OWN, STRESSING THAT THE AI NOVEMBER 1976 REPORT AND THE PROPOSED NETHERLANDS BRANCH CONFERENCE ARE ONLY PART OF A CONTINUING WORLD-WIDE CAMPAIGN AGAINST VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. IN FCO MICHAEL JAMES, WHO HANDLES IRAN, INFORMED EMBOFF FEBRUARY 10 THAT WHILE AI REPORT HAS NOT ATTRACTED MUCH ATTENTION FROM BRITISH MEDIA, IT HAS RESULTED IN SOME QUESTIONS FROM THE BRITISH PUBLIC AND MEMBERS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PARLIAMENT TO FCO. FCO IS PREPARING TO BRIEF MINSITER OF STATE OWEN FOR A NON-PUBLIC MEETING ON THE SUBJECT NEXT WEEK WITH MP'S. IN PREPARING FCO POSITION, FCO IS DRAWING HEAVILY UPON NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON'S PUBLIC TESTIMONY LAST SUMMER BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WHICH FCO HAS FOUND VERY HELPFUL. JAMES EXPECTS THAT IN HIS MEETING WITH MP'S OWEN WILL TRY TO PRESENT IRAN, WITH WHICH THE BRITISH WANT TO TRY TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS, IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE. FCO WILL CONTEND PRIVATELY THAT ALLEGATIONS IN AI REPORT ARE OUT OF DATE AND THAT FIGURES FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE EXAGGERATED. WHILE THE FCO, WHICH BELIEVES THAT AI IN GENERAL DOES A GOOD JOB, DOES NOT WANT TO KNOW THE REPORT TOO HARD, IT WILL STRESS THAT NEITHER THE FCO NOR AI KNOW ALL THE FACTS. THE FCO BRIEFING PAPER FOR OWEN WILL NOTE THAT THE SHAH'S RECORD IN HUMAN RIGHTS IS IMPROVING, GO INTO THE GOOD SIDE OF THE REMARKABLE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS MADE BY HIS REGIME, AND POINT UP THE SHAH'S KNOWN DETERMINATION TO SPREAD IRAN'S WEALTH

AROUND. THE FCO HOPES THAT A PUBLIC DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT  
ON THE ISSUE CAN BE AVOIDED.

5. EMBOFF IS SEEKING APPOINTMENT AT IRANIAN EMBASSY TO  
OBTAIN LATTER'S POINT OF VIEW ON THE CONTROVERSY.

6. COPIES OF AMNETY INTERNATIONAL REPORT ON IRAN OF  
NOVEMBER 1976, IRANIAN EMBASSY CIRCULAR LETTER OF  
JANUARY 28, AND AI PRESS RELEASE OF FEBRUARY 2 POUCHED  
TO EMBASSY TEHRAN AND NEA/IRN IN DEPARTMENT. AI HAS RE-  
FUSED TO GIVE COPY OF ITS "INTERNAL MEMORANDUM" TO EITHER  
EMBASSY LONDON OR THE FCO.ARMSTRONG

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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